

The Avalanche.

G. PALMER, Editor and Proprietor.

GRAYLING, MICHIGAN.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Interesting News Compilation.

XLVIIIth Congress.

TUESDAY, Feb. 26.—Bills, were reported in the Senate to prohibit the mailing of newspapers containing lottery advertisements, and for the relief of Fitz John Porter. A joint resolution was passed expressing the appreciation by the Nation of the generosity of Great Britain in presenting the "Alert" for the Greely relief expedition. In the House Mr. Cobb asked unanimous consent for the passage of the joint resolution of thanks to Great Britain for the gift of the Arctic steamer Alert, but Mr. Robinson objected. The Pleuro-pneumonia bill was discussed to the hour of adjournment, it being argued that the measure was full of unconstitutional provisions, and was in the interest of a ring now being formed to control the cattle trade.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 27.—In the Senate Mr. Van Wyck asked immediate consideration for a resolution directing the Post-office Committee to inquire whether at any time the Western Union and the Baltimore & Ohio Telegraph Companies had negotiated for consolidation. A long debate took place on the bill to construct eleven vessels for the navy. In the House the bill to "repeal" the railroad tariff (previously passed by the Senate) was passed. A resolution was adopted directing the Secretary of the Treasury to state how much money there was in the vaults, and to report what amount could be present applied in liquidation of the public debt. The Pleuro-pneumonia bill was further considered.

THURSDAY, Feb. 28.—Mr. Ingalls introduced a bill in the Senate to remove the jurisdiction of secession from the members of the Fitz John Porter court-martial. Debate on the bill to authorize the construction of steel vessels for the navy occupied the remainder of the session. In the House the Pleuro-pneumonia bill was passed—150 to 127. It provides for the creation of a Government Bureau of Animal Industry. Envoys upon the late Representative Haskell, of Kansas, were delivered.

FRIDAY, Feb. 29.—In the Senate a favorable report was made on the original bill for the admission of Dakota. Mr. Ransom reported back adversely the joint resolution for an appropriation of five hundred thousand dollars for the cyclone sufferers in the South, the distress having been overstated. The bill for the construction of steel cruisers was passed by 38 to 13. Adjourned to March 3. In the House, in Committee of the Whole, it was resolved that General Pleasanton be retired with the rank of Colonel. The Post-office appropriation bill was reported. An evening session was held for the consideration of pension bills.

From Washington.

The gilding of the recent issue of the five-cent nickel by such jewelery manufacturers has been stopped by the Government.

Advices of the 28th ult. state that the House Committee on Public Lands had decided to report in favor of forfeiting that portion of the Northern Pacific grant where the road had not been completed July 4, 1870. This would restore to the public domain about 3,300,000 acres.

The provisions of the Pleuro-pneumonia bill which was passed by the House on the 28th ult. are to the following effect:

The Commissioner of Agriculture will organize a Bureau of Animal Industry and appoint a chief, whose duty it shall be to investigate and report upon the condition and condition of the domestic animals of the United States, and also the causes of contagious diseases and the means of prevention and cure.

It is authorized to appoint two competent agents, whose duty shall be to report upon the best methods of training, taming, and breaking in horses, and the means to be adopted for the suppression and extirpation of contagious pleuro-pneumonia.

The Commissioner of Agriculture may expend such sum of the public money as may be necessary in paying for the animals in its charge to be slaughtered, and in such amount as may be necessary to extirpate the disease.

The authorities of the States shall pay one-half of the expenses of the animals as are deemed necessary to be slaughtered, and the other half of the infection and care of horses or cattle.

The transportation from one State to another of any animal suffering with any contagious or infectious disease is prohibited, and no person is made liable for the prosecution of any person violating this prohibition.

Throughout the United States and Canada the business failures during the seven days ended on the 28th ult., numbered 275, against 331 the previous week. The distribution was as follows: New England States, 28; Middle, 54; Western, 79; Southern, 83; Pacific States and Territories, 18; Canada and the Provinces, 38.

The first report of the Civil-Servants Commission was submitted to Congress by the President on the 28th ult. The members of that body declared the law a successful and satisfactory act of legislation, and while admitting that there had been several violations in regard to political assessments, the amount collected was one-fourth as much as formerly.

During January last the excess of the value of exports over imports of merchandise into the United States was \$19,677,487, and for the twelve months ended January 31, 1874, was \$104,370,320.

It was stated on the 28th ult. by Chief Minimo, of the Bureau of Statistics at Washington, in reply to the charges of manufacturing emigration statistics, made by John Law, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture of Canada, that the statement was a fabrication of the basest sort.

The President has appointed Rodney D. Wells postmaster of St. Louis.

It was agreed by the House Committee on Commerce on the 28th ult., to report Representative Stewart's bill to regulate inter-State commerce and provide for the appointment of a Commission. An Amendment prohibiting pooling had been added to the bill. As agreed to, the bill provides that in the transportation of property the charges "shall be reasonable for such service," that there shall be no discrimination in the transportation of freight that it shall be unlawful to allow any rebate, and that, pooling, under any circumstances, will be unlawful.

The bill also provides for the appointment of a commission, to consist of three members, one a lawyer, one a railroad man, and one whose qualifications are not specified, to investigate complaints; it satisfied the act has been violated the Commission is required to notify the company to cease violation. If this company fails to comply with the decision of the Commission within six days it will be required to show cause why it should not be enjoined and restrained in the continuance of such violation.

WARRANTS were issued on the 28th ult. by the Treasury Department for about \$1,500,000 on account of pensions for the month.

The East.

The Conard steamer Copahola, on the Conard line, recently ran down and sank the tug Glen Island, near New York, and the engineer and a deck-hand were drowned.

A large percentage of visitors to where you are armed with no more than the claws of killing, the compelling, almost, those and those, the venomous, the combatant and combative, and the

the city cut the heavy force was strengthening, the lesser. Great distress was being experienced, but no loss of life had been reported.

In Chicago on the 28th ult. a National bank with \$2,000,000 capital subscribed, to be called the Metropolitan, was organized.

The death of the widow of the immortal John Brown, of Harper's Ferry, occurred on the 28th ult. at San Francisco.

Mrs. CORNELIUS VAN RIPER, aged thirty-two years, was killed by leaping from a window during a fire in a New York tenement house on the 28th ult., and her husband, aged forty, and three children, John, aged ten, Alice, aged seven, and Frankie, aged two, were burned to death.

The Senate bill prohibiting the manufacture and sale of all intoxicating liquors was engrossed by the lower House on the 28th ult.

Foreign Intelligence.

MATANZAS and Manzanillo (Mex.) advised of the 27th state that yellow fever was raging in those cities, the epidemic being worse than last fall.

The London press reported on the 27th that the Irish democratic party had made Paris its headquarters. It was believed that the explosive magazine at Montrochard. Five members of the active section had been traced from the United States.

By the explosion of a quantity of dynamite in a quarry in Wales, a few days ago four men were killed and sixteen others were fatally injured.

The death of W. H. Hunt, United States Minister to Russia, and Secretary of the Navy from March, 1878, to April, 1882, occurred at St. Petersburg on the 27th from dropsy.

A large quantity of explosives were found by the London police on the 28th ult. under the Charing Cross Railway station, and a bomb discovered in the cloak-room a box containing dynamite. A statement was made in the House of Commons that an infant machine of American manufacture had been found at the Paddington Railway station. Great excitement prevailed.

Transports delayed and abandoned in Ontario on the 28th ult. owing to the severity of snow-storm, and in Nova Scotia, also, a storm raged fiercely.

BROOK, a special Parliamentary committee at Ottawa a few days ago, John Lowe, Secretary of the Canadian Department of Agriculture, swore that the statistics issued from Washington as to the immigration to the United States from Canada were incorrect, and that American customs officers had been instructed to fraudulently augment the number of persons leaving the Dominion.

It had been decided by the Czar of Russia to convene a council, composed of representatives of the ruling classes, to consider whether a powerful nihilistic party really exists, and how to crush it, or satisfy its wants.

A major was made by the United States Consul at Birmingham on the 28th ult. that the foot-and-mouth disease in cattle existed in nearly every county in England. Instructions would be sent to American Consuls in Great Britain to certify as invoices of cattle until they had been found sound by veterinary surgeons.

The other day eightights at Sparrows, a well-to-do farmer in Pocahontas County, W. Va., was destroyed by fire a few days and two daughters, aged eight and eleven years, were burned to death.

At Hot Springs, Ark., the law was virtually suspended on the 27th, and the committee of fourteen, some of whom were under indictment for crimes in other States, controlled the city. Twenty persons were driven out at the point of the bayonet. The people expelled were generally witnesses against Dorian and his accomplices in the recent assassination.

A WELL-TO-DO farmer of Fulton, Mo., named Robert Craighead, was assassinated a few nights ago by an unknown person who called him from his house, ostensibly to assist a stranger out of a mud-hole with his heavy wagon.

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ROBERT ELLIOT (colored), of Toledo, O., was a few days ago convicted of marrying a white girl contrary to the statute of 1840, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment and \$100 fine—the full penalty.

ELI LYONS and Alfred Stand, two Chinese Lyons, and Alfred Stand, of the Chinese Lyons, died a few days ago of pneumonia.

It was reported on the 27th by the Milwaukee Hebrew Society that two hundred Russian refugees near Bismarck were in a condition bordering on starvation, and nakedness, and endeavored to suppress and extirpate the disease.

The death of the 27th ult. in the House of Commons on the 28th ult. that the Irish Parlementarians denounced the dynastic conspirators, who, they declared, had their headquarter in the United States.

Advices of the 28th ult. from the 17th report state that the rebels are still continuing, and the war is still on. The 28th ult. the situation was critical, the 29th rising like a cloud of day. 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A FATAL CONUNDRUM.

Why is it that a wicked man, who in the *scriptures* is tried? Is it that an editor who regularly paid Is like a hungry little boy dodging from And waiting for a chance to steal a piece of apple pie? The editor quickly gave up, and then the man who gave up, and then the man who gave up, and the difference is plainly seen, as darkness is from dawn?

It is because and here he got in shape to fly away. Because one loves for me, you see, and the other loves for me, and the other upon me fell in blind and fiery rage. And on his wicked carress he did bloody and wanton wage: And when he had not in the room was decked with brutes. And purple gore, and matted hair, and scrawled upon roses. —Bismarck Tribune.

TORRENT TAMING IN SOUTHERN FRANCE.

In the year 1869 France began upon a new and successful plan, a fight with certain lawless torrents, many of them tributary to the Rhone.

The condition of affairs which made necessary such a course, the progress of the struggle, and its successful issue, are well worthy our attention here in America at this time.

For more than three hundred years the improvident wood cutting has been going on, which at last changed many of the streams of that region into torrents. The lower lying and generally steeper slopes of their basins had been robed by their short-sighted owners of their protecting forests.

Next, as the income from woodland became less, the impoverished peasants were tempted to overstock the higher and more level upland pastures with sheep and goats. The sharp hoofs of these animals, and their close bite when pressed by hunger soon weakened the turf, so that it could not hold its place against the washing action of the heavy rain.

During bad showers the fragments of this turf, with more or less of the thin soil underneath, started down hill. Arriving at the steeper slopes—formerly protected by trees with their fallen leaves, roots and undergrowth—the water found nothing to check it, till part of it could find the crevices leading

to the springs, and there was nothing else to keep the rest from rushing

too suddenly to the stream bed; but

carrying with it the scanty soil of these denuded slopes, every yard of descent would add to its volume, velocity and eroding power. By the time the stream was reached each drop would contain some grains of the precious soil to be washed down to the sea, or on its way to the springs, and there was nothing else to keep the rest from rushing

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would add to its volume, velocity and eroding power. By the time the stream was reached each drop would contain some grains of the precious soil to be washed down to the sea, or on its way

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